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a corresponding change in the weather. Perhaps the phenomena of a thunder-storm are due as much to the state of the atmosphere in each locality, as to the ominous black cloud which passes over it at the time of their appearance.

“A few days after the storm of the 6th of July, I had an opportunity of observing some of the effects of the whirlwind which accompanied the cloud, and thus tracing a portion of its course. It was at Hilhampton, adjoining Whitley Court, the residence of her Majesty the Queen Dowager, which lies on the direct line between Hereford and Birmingham—several large, full-grown elms, standing in the middle of a field, were torn up by the roots; other trees were stripped of their branches at one side only, while the stem and remaining branches had not been touched; a low brick wall, not a foot high, which supported some paling, was torn up. It did not proceed in a straight line, but in a zig-zag or curve, running in the direction of the course of the cloud; and what is a little remarkable, the dwelling-house, which was not injured, lay in one of the bends of the curve; a large fir tree in the front had all the branches on one side twisted off, and a walnut tree immediately behind the house suffered in the same way; neither tree was ten feet from the house which was between them, and it was in its course round the house that the low brick wall was torn up; it then passed amongst some hay-cocks, which it carried off and scattered.”

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Colonel Harry D. Jones gave the following account of recent excavations which he made in the Round Towers of Clonmacnoise:

“As some time must necessarily have elapsed before the vegetable material in the large tower could be removed to the level of the lower floor, it was determined to employ another party in sinking below the foundations of the smaller tower, called Teampull; the ground in the interior was level with the sill of the door and with the ground outside.

“ Upon sinking nine inches, vegetable mould only was found, then sand mixed with small stones and mould, which became more compact as the excavation proceeded. At the depth of three feet nine inches the workmen discovered the ribs of a skeleton ; they were then directed to proceed very carefully in their operation : it should be observed that the pieces of bone taken up would scarcely bear to be handled, falling into small fragments ; upon clearing the earth away, the skull of a human body was found in a perfect state, firmly imbedded in the earth and gravel. Upon removing the earth to bare the skeleton, a second was found, one foot above that first discovered. Every endeavour was then made to lay bare this second skeleton, which was to a great extent effected, but no skull could be found ; the legs were buried considerably under the foundation-walls of the tower ; the bones found were very perfect until we attempted to raise them, when they were found to be very brittle, falling to pieces with the least pressure or strain. Having removed the upper skeleton, the intervening layer of earth was carefully raised, and thus the second or lower skeleton, with the exception of the ribs, which had been disturbed upon first finding it, upon being laid bare, were found as perfect as the day the body was placed in the grave ; the bones of one leg were taken out uninjured, which measured one foot two inches, but not so the skull, which broke into several pieces upon the attempt to raise it from the soil, which was very firmly attached to it ; the formation of the head appeared to be remarkable ; the fragments have been carefully preserved. Having removed the bones of the lower skeleton, the excavation was then proceeded with, until the natural ground was found, which was coarse limestone gravel, mixed with boulder-stones of a middling size, rendering the progress of the work very difficult, and evidently shewing that it had never been disturbed. The lower of the two skeletons was laid upon the surface of the limestone gravel, apparently in a naked state, as there was not the slightest

appearance of wood or linen, or anything to indicate that the body had been enveloped by a covering of any description.

“From the position of the two bodies, it would appear evident that they had been buried subsequent to the erection of the tower, inasmuch as the lower, and most perfect of the two, and the one on which any reasoning that may be made should be applied, was placed with the head two feet from the interior face of the tower, in consequence of the rubble-work of the foundation projecting that distance within the upright walls of the tower, and the feet were inserted under the foundation on the opposite side. The direction of the body was W. N. W. and E. S. E., the head at the west, and which appears to be the general direction of the graves in the adjoining yard.

“Upon commencing operations, it became necessary to remove the great quantity of vegetable matter, which was composed of pieces of wood, twigs, &c., evidently the debris of bird's nests, mixed with stones thrown in by idle persons.

“Upon entering the large tower by the doorway, which is eleven feet six inches above the upper footing-course of the foundation, the interior was found to be filled with decayed vegetable matter, bones of birds, sheep, pigs, &c., with a few human bones, all intermixed to the height of five feet above the level of the footing-course, or, as was subsequently ascertained, above the level of the lower floor of the tower. The first thing to be accomplished was the removal of such a large mass of material; this was done by fixing staging of planks across the interior, and hoisting it up and discharging it outside; this was a long and tedious operation; when accomplished, it was ascertained that the dressed stone was eleven feet six inches below the sill of the doorway, corresponding with the height measured outside. Upon sinking eight feet, the vegetable mould, &c., was found lying upon a rubble stone paving of about one foot six inches in thickness. The material next to be removed was gravel and sand mixed, about nine inches; then

yellow clay, three inches; and lastly, four feet six inches gravel mixed with boulder-stones of moderate size, and evidently, by the seams of fine sand, shewing that the excavation was then in the natural ground; and as one of the workmen observed, when throwing it out, ‘that has not been moved since the morning of the flood.’ The total depth sunk below the sill of the doorway was eighteen feet seven inches, viz.:

1 ft. 7 in.	from sill to under side of the projection of floor,
8 ,, 0 ,,	to the level of bottom floor or commencement of dressed ashlar work,
3 ,, 6 ,,	rubble masonry—foundation of floor and loose stones with earth,
0 ,, 9 ,,	gravelly sand,
0 ,, 3 ,,	yellow clay,
4 ,, 6 ,,	gravel, sand, and boulder stones,

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18 ,, 7 ,,

being seven feet one inch below the ground-floor of the tower. Considering the nature of the materials, and the depth in which the men were working, it appeared conclusive that the ground beneath had never been disturbed, and consequently the object for which the work had been undertaken had been fully and satisfactorily executed, not leaving a doubt upon the minds of any present, that prosecuting the work any longer would be useless waste of time and labour. Mr. Molloy, a respectable farmer, who is seventy years of age, states, that for fifty-six years, that his memory serves him, no excavation similar to the present had been made within that period.

“Mr. Long, C. E., Mr. C. Mayne, and Mr. Molloy, farmer, were present during the entire operation. After having satisfied myself as to the result of the excavation, the material taken out was thrown back into the tower.”

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Colonel Jones also exhibited rubbings from a rock at Drumlish, of which he read the following account: